



MAY  
2006

# DOWN UNDER DIVE CLUB

SINCE 1984

## May's DUDC Monthly Meeting is Wednesday, May 10th @ 7:30 p.m.

Our speaker at this month's meeting is Dr. Jonathan Shenker from FIT. Jon Shenker has been a professor of marine biology and fisheries at Florida Tech since 1989. He's talked to the dive club in the past on his research on artificial reefs off Sebastian, and on the college course he taught on the east coast of Australia. He needed to break new ground on his Australia program, so he shifted it to the west and northwest coast of the continent, and will share his stories about this amazing region.

Our speaker for June is still a work in progress. Coming at the July meeting is our annual Ice Cream Social!!

## Last Month's Meeting...

April's DUDC meeting was another one for the record books! We had an amazing 9, yes count them, 9 visitors this month!!! And what a great night for them to visit with us. We had a wonderful speaker in Tom Funk. Tom is a local high school history teacher and archeologist. He and his team have located what they believe is one of the ships from the doomed 1719 Spanish fleet that was sunk during a hurricane off the central coast of Florida. The team has so far recovered a pistol and some communion type plates and have photographs and radar images of a canon in the area of the wreck. We look forward to hearing more from the excavation in the future.

This was the first month that our new officers presided over the meeting. Our wounded President, Michael Wheat did a wonderful job for his first month keeping everything rolling. Our Vice-president, Bob Carmichael, announced the yearly picnic will be Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at Howard Futch Memorial Park (formerly Paradise Beach Park). Members are encouraged to sign up for the picnic and also for what food they will bring to share. So, this month's meeting was another great one! We are off to another great year. See you in May.

L. LeFavor

### Dive Quiz by Al

Treatment for Nitrogen Narcosis is:

- surgery
- recompression
- pure oxygen
- ascending to shallower water

Answer on page 5

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## Want to go Diving????

Check out the Club  
Calendar — we have some great dives  
coming up!

### Board of Directors

**President :** Michael Wheat

**Vice-President:** Bob Carmichael

**Treasurer:** Ed Given

**Secretary:** Laurel LeFavor

**Membership:** Bill Allen

**Safety Officer:** Al Audet

**Dive Coordinator:** Russell Bremmer

#### MEMBERS AT

**Newsletter Editor:** Debi Buck

**Webmaster:** Shannon Ander-

**Concession Master:** Tom Butler



# DUDC Event & Activity Calendar

Event		Time	Member's Cost	Coordinator Phone # / E-mail	
DUDC Club Meeting Indian River Lagoon House		Wednesday, 5/10/2006 @ 7:30 p.m	Free	Bill Allen	<a href="mailto:info@downunderdiveclub.com">info@downunderdiveclub.com</a>
DUDC Annual Spring Picnic Futch Park		Saturday, 5/13/2006 11-2	BYOB + side dishes	Bob Carmichael	
Jupiter Dive Jupiter Dive Center	Average depths 70-90 ft	Saturday, 5/20/2006 @ 9am	\$45.00 + tanks	Michael 727-1028	<a href="mailto:Mwheat@downunderdiveclub.com">Mwheat@downunderdiveclub.com</a>
West Palm Beach Dive Pura Vida Divers	Average depths 60-85 ft	Saturday, 6/10/2006 @ 8a.m.	\$45.50 + tanks (\$5 air /\$10 nitrox)	Debi (321)728-7243	<a href="mailto:Dbuck@downunderdiveclub.com">Dbuck@downunderdiveclub.com</a>
DUDC Club Meeting Indian River Lagoon House		Wednesday, 6/14/2006 @ 7:30 p.m	Free	Bill Allen	<a href="mailto:info@downunderdiveclub.com">info@downunderdiveclub.com</a>
Jupiter Dive Jupiter Dive Center	Average depths 70-90 ft	Saturday, 6/18/2006 @ 9am	\$45.00 + tanks	Michael 727-1028	<a href="mailto:Mwheat@downunderdiveclub.com">Mwheat@downunderdiveclub.com</a>
<h2 style="color: blue; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">DUDC Bonaire Trip</h2> <h3 style="color: blue; font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">6/23 thru 7/1 -- SOLD OUT</h3>					
West Palm Beach Dive Pura Vida Divers	Average depths 60-85 ft	Saturday, 7/8/2006 @ 8a.m.	\$45.50 + tanks (\$5 air /\$10 nitrox)	Debi (321)728-7243	<a href="mailto:Dbuck@downunderdiveclub.com">Dbuck@downunderdiveclub.com</a>
DUDC Club Meeting Indian River Lagoon House & ICE CREAM SOCIAL		Wednesday, 7/12/2006 @ 7:30 p.m	Free	Bill Allen	<a href="mailto:info@downunderdiveclub.com">info@downunderdiveclub.com</a>

**Cancellation Policy for Club Sponsored Dives:** eposits will be refunded with **2 weeks notice** of the scheduled event or with a paid replacement divers. Refunds of money paid after the 2 week cancellation period is subject to **board approval**. All requests for refunds after this period **MUST** be made in writing. Money and deposits are refunded when dives are cancelled by the Charter or DUDC.

**ALL DIVES MUST BE PAID PRIOR TO THE DAY OF THE DIVE.**  
*(This calendar is tentative and subject to change.)*

**You can pay for your Club dives, membership fees and merchandise with your credit card. For more details, talk to the dive coordinator or call Ed Given at 255-5587.**



# April 8th West Palm Beach Dive Trip Report

**Location:**  
West Palm Beach, Florida  
Charter Boat: Pura Vida Divers

What a great day to be diving! While the seas were a little bumpy, the top-side weather was great and the visibility was fabulous! The water temps have warmed up to 76-77 and absolutely no one complained about being cold!



DUDC divers: Jeri Curley, Al Audet, Rick Halcomb and myself.

Since Rick needed to do a deep dive for his AOW, the first site of the day was South Double Ledges. As you can see from the pictures the visibility was great - a consistent 60+ all morning. There was a southbound current which was pretty mild in the beginning, but got pretty strong about midway through the dive. Almost immediately upon descending to the ledge, there was a nice sized green moray eel who was patient enough to let both Jeri and myself take several pictures. This must have been a day for eels, because everywhere we turned there were more eels in addition to all the tomtates, grunts and porkfish that were all over the ledges.



Second dive of the day was at 60ft Rocks. Now, I'll have to admit, this isn't one of my favorite locations. I really do prefer ledges over rocks. However, this really turned out to be a great dive. There were loads of juvenile fish hiding out in the rocks - which kept my camera busy. Jeri made a really nice find, a chain moray eel (this is the first one I have ever seen). Visibility was so good that you could look up from the bottom and see the *Sirena* (Pura Vida's flagship) going by overhead.



All in all, a great morning of diving with great people. Next WBP dive is scheduled for June 10th. We always have a great time on these dives and the boat spoils us rotten. Because the official "dive season" is beginning, the boat is filling up fast, so sign up early by sending me a e-mail at [dbuck@downunderdiveclub.com](mailto:dbuck@downunderdiveclub.com).



D. Buck

## President's Message

With May upon us, we begin the heart of our Florida dive season. May brings with it the beginning of tropical weather conditions and an improvement in the water temp and clarity. By this time of year, the water is usually either approaching 80 degree's or starting to surpass it – so you can hang up the dry suit :-). Needless to say, some of the best diving of the season is just around the corner. And that is saying something considering just how great it has been during this calendar year so far. So get that gear out of the closet and let's get it wet!

This time of year also represents **renewal** time for the club. For the current members; I hope you enjoyed the past year in the club as much as I did. We had one of our most active years on record as far as diving. We ran at least two trips a month and even held our first annual dive vacation getaway aboard the Aquacat in the Bahamas. Our monthly speakers covered topics across a wide spectrum including technical diving, environmental issues, diver health and safety, and diving history.

Your 2006 board of directors is already hard at work at ensuring that we continue to improve and provide another exciting year. We have some exciting events planned for this year. For our dive outings, we are continuing our busy schedule and are even looking at adding some non-diving events (i.e., kayaking and family getaways). For our annual club getaway, we are headed to Bonaire to enjoy one of the best dive vacation sites in the world. And of course we will make our annual pilgrimage to the Keys for some fantastic wreck diving. Bob Carmichael has gotten us started off in a great way with the speakers for this year. Last month we learned about the history of shipwreck/treasure salvage right off OUR OWN coast line from Professor Tom Funk. Did anyone else go out and buy a metal detector after the meeting? :-)

We also have our first "Special Event" of the year just around the corner. The board has been hard at work preparing for the club picnic on May 13<sup>th</sup> at Futch Park. We have had a great deal of interest in the picnic and are looking forward to a GREAT turnout.

The most important aspect to our club is YOU, our fellow membership. We work hard to ensure we have a club that we can all enjoy and be proud of. But we count on **YOUR** support and participation to be successful. So as you get your annual renewal notice, please bring it to the next meeting or drop it off in the mail. Here is just a small listing of some of the benefits we receive from the club:

- Multiple monthly dive events up and down the state of Florida
- Annual dive vacation getaways to exotic locations and cruises
- Great friends and dive buddies
- Monthly social/education meetings
- Monthly newsletter
- Web Portal for club, local, and dive industry news.
- Discounted trip cost
- Discounts to local dive shops

And as always, if there is something you would like to see us do different or new. Just contact a board member and tell us about us. We are always looking for feedback.

With that, come join us as we work towards a GREAT year ahead of us!

See you down under,  
Michael

## March's Prize Winners

### Door Prize Winners:

**Bobbi Bjorski** — \$10 off a club sponsored dive  
**Rodney Simon** (one of our visitors) — \$5 off a club sponsored dive  
**Jeri Curley** — DUDC T-shirt

*Door prizes are given away at each club meeting.  
Come to the meeting and sign-in to win.*

### 50/50

**The Jackpot is up over  
\$150 !! Come to the May  
Club Meeting and have a  
chance to win some cash!!!**

# Surface Marker Buoys



Over the past few years, surface marker buoys (SMB) have become a piece of standard equipment on most drift divers. Several manufacturers have started producing SMBs, and we now have a pretty good variety of SMBs available. I'd like to go over some of the features of several I have come across, and briefly discuss how to deploy an SMB.

There are several features you want to look for. Here's a few I look for:

First of all, is there a pressure relief mechanism? This comes in very handy when you forget to compensate for Boyle's Law. With a pressure relief valve, you don't have to concern yourself with Boyle's Law.

Secondly, how do you fill it with air? Some you have to inflate orally. That really blows literally and figuratively. You can inflate some using your low pressure inflator hose. Now you either have to disconnect your low pressure inflator or have a second hose. Or, you can have one that will inflate like a lift bag using your alternate air source.

Third, how do you store it? Some come in a neat little bag that are a pain to stuff back in. Some use a Velcro strap to secure it, and others use a bungee to secure it.

Finally, how durable is it? I've seen some that I don't believe they'll last one dive.

Halcyon probably has the most durable material and probably the largest. What do you expect from the people who brought you DIR. Yes! Bigger is better. It does have an over expansion valve, and you have to inflate it using your low pressure inflator. It sells for around \$100.

Diver's Alert Network (DAN) recently started selling one. It's not quite as durable as the Halcyon, but close. It has an over expansion valve, and you can inflate it using either your low pressure inflator or your alternate air source. The DAN SMB also comes with a little pocket that holds a light stick, whistle, and mirror. You can buy it from DAN for \$54.

Oceanic has one that is fairly light weight but durable. It has an overexpansion valve, it inflates using the alternate air source, and it comes in a pouch. Oceanic sells it for \$64.95.

How do you launch an SMB? I use a finger reel with about 100' of line on it. Some people use cave reels. You definitely want a reel of some type, or you're going to lose your SMB. I usually launch my SMB just prior to the start of my ascent. I first get the reel ready, and then I unroll the SMB. Once I have reel connected to the SMB, I'll give it a blast of air from my alternate air source. As soon as the SMB starts to ascend, I let it go and let the reel unwind line. If I lose control of the reel, I just let it go. The reel will unwind right in front of me, and I grab it just as the SMB reaches the surface.

To start my ascent, I just start winding the string on the reel. This way, I can easily maintain a slow (less than 30 feet per minute) ascent.

I'm a firm believer every drift diver should own and use an SMB on every dive. Some of the dive charters are even beginning to require one. The SMB should be part of every diver's mandatory equipment.

*A. Audet*

## Answer to Dive Quiz:

**Answer: d.** Ascending to shallower water

# April 22nd Jupiter Dive Trip Report

**Location:** Jupiter, Florida  
**Charter Boat:** Jupiter Dive Charters  
**Date:** April 22, 2006

**NEWS FLASH!!!!** Weather men and NOAA LIE!!!! The forecast for Saturday morning was for a beautiful, not a cloud in the sky, day above the water and flat seas and great viz below. BITE ME!

Okay, it REALLY wasn't that bad out there. The sun did finally peek out from behind the clouds. Although that happened the moment the boat returned back to the dock. The seas were 2-4 most of the day. Mostly fours in the morning and shrinking to two's as the day progressed. Visibility was 30-40 feet on the first site and about 20-30 on the second. Not having the sun out really hurt. This is the worst visibility I've had all year.



We had a tremendous turnout for the trip – thanks go out to **Tom Butler, Dale Purchase, Bob Carmichael, Rick Halcomb, Rochelle Hood, Jeri Curley, Bill Allen, Bob Jensen, Tim Dempsey, Michael Walsh, and Russ Phoenix.** That is one of the beauties of doing club trips – even when the conditions are not perfect; you still have a fun time with good friends! So thanks again to everyone for joining us on the trip – you guys were the highlight!

**The first dive of the day was Area 51:** We all geared up, turned on our UFO detectors and proceeded to jump into the big blue. This is a great site

which has a massive ledge structure and always lots of goodies to look at. The site is usually known for the number of Black Tips that hang out on it, but that day I only saw one. Guess they figured we got our quota in on the last club dive :-). But that was just replaced with lots of green morays; several free swimming. Got several good pictures of them and even got one in which I didn't know he was there. If you look at the picture of Tom Butler to the right, look in the background. See anything we BOTH missed. I didn't even notice the free swimming Green Moray until I got home and was downloading the pictures from my camera. Must admit, that gave me a good chuckle :-). Makes you wonder just how much we really miss on every dive trip. But that just means we can say we have been diving with whale sharks... they were there, we just didn't see them.... That counts. Right :-)



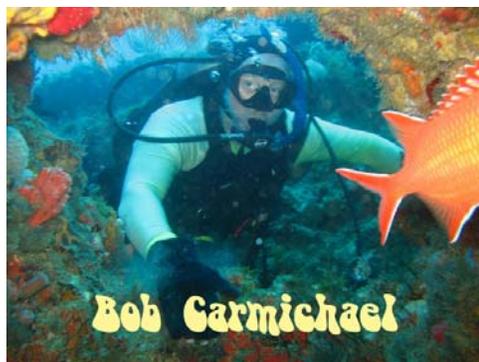
(Continued on page 7)

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Overall, even with the less than normal visibility, Area 51 was still a lot of fun to dive. You could even tell that Lobster season was over as they were literally crawling all over the place. But the highlight of the dive for me at least was at the very end. I was in the middle of my safety stop when I suddenly hear someone screaming underwater. I look down to see the DM pointing out into the distance. At first I wasn't sure I believed my eyes, but as it swam BY me I was sure it was a **SAILFISH!** I had hooked my camera off on my BC and turned it off. I'm reaching frantically for it and trying to get it turned back on. While at the same time trying to swim after it. As I get my camera ready it dawns on.... I'm chasing a sailfish.... I never stood a chance :-). I did get some shots of it, but nothing good. Just too far in the distant. Oh well, still an AWESOME experience!



**For our 2<sup>nd</sup> dive, we headed over to Spade Fish Pointe:** I found this site atypical for Jupiter. It really reminded me more of West Palm in many ways. For most of the dive, the ledge structure was much smaller and I was noticing more juvenile



marine life. For example, I found this little juvenile Blue Angel hiding in the reef. It took a long time to get a good photo as the little dude wouldn't sit still. Must have ADHD :-). But the main problem was that the visibility was really starting to go downhill for portions of the dive; many times it was in the 20-30 foot range. It did start to improve (as did the ledge) as the dive progressed. This

wouldn't be one of my first choices for site selection, but it was nice for something different. I even got to do a little wreck diving right at the very end. I was fixing to head to the surface when I saw something lying out in the sand. A short swim out and I found what looked to be the remains of a personal boat. It was probably about 25 feet long. It was just sitting upside down in the sand.

After getting back to the dock and watching the sun come out we all decided to try somewhere different for lunch. So we decided to head over to Quarterdecks. This is a place that we normally hit after night dives. The only problem with this site is that it is a pain to get to when heading home. It is easy to find and get to when you are diving INTO Jupiter... But when leaving, it is a complete pain! On the way in that morning, we all took special note to see where to turn so that we could finally get there with no problem. Well, low and behold we get totally lost trying to find it. But of course it was all Tom's fault :-). After taking a tour of some of the back roads, we finally got there. Considering that we had 12 people in our group, the restaurant did a really good job taking care of us. The food was good, the beer was cold, and the company was GREAT!

The next dive in Jupiter is May 20th and is already starting to fill up. If you are interested in joining us, drop me a note at [mwheat@downunderdiveclub.com](mailto:mwheat@downunderdiveclub.com). Price for the trip is \$45 and we always have a GREAT time. If you haven't tried diving in Jupiter yet – do yourself a favor and come check it out. It has some of the BEST diving in Florida!

Tell next time – see you down under!  
Michael

# DUDC 3/25 Kayak Adventure



It was a beautiful morning and once we got on the water and out of the wind quite comfortable. Nice leisurely ride down the creek through wilderness with distance of sounds civilization every now and then, e.g. sirens mainly! Sometimes we would slide quietly under a highway and see traffic speeding by. After about 4+ miles (Russ had a GPS) and two hours we stopped at a nice little park along side a divided highway crossing. Some kids were there fishing and we could see some homes

not to far away.



We all got cold because of the wind since we were now out in the open. So we headed on downstream after the lunch break. The stream was narrower now and the bushes much thicker. About a ¼ mile in the stream ran out – there was very heavy bushes and very shallow water. When you stepped out of the kayak you sunk to your knees in muck and it was then hell pulling your foot out. Tom, BJ and I tried pushing ahead looking for the stream to reappear, Russ tried to the left also and others also searched. Tom was further out (about 150 feet so BJ pushed a kayak thru the bushes and reached him and they tried to go further, they found a little bit of solid creek bed, but it went back in the bushes!! After about an hour we quit and headed back to



the road we had had lunch at.

I asked the kids that were fishing there if they had a brother or sister or somebody that wanted to earn some money by taking us to our vehicles in Kissimmee. Short answer was no! So we called a cab, after three different companies we found one that would come out to Hunter Creek Blvd and Shingle Creek (no that is not Shingle Creek Dr or Rd – it is Shingle Creek the water way we had to explain)!!



Anyway the taxi showed up and Tom, Steve (his brother) and I took the taxi to Kissimmee. Fortunately, the taxi driver was a Kissimmee native and when he got the call he came to the right place. The kids didn't know where they were –



we were on Town Sq Blvd and the driver knew it went over Shingle Creek and Hunter Creek Blvd (which is where the kids said we were) did not! Nice guy, it knew the creek was impassable because of low water – said call me next time before you go! I got his number!! Turns out the impassable section is only about a mile long – we could a made it.

We go the vehicles and went back and rescued the rest of the crew. I am planning on continuing the trip on the other side of the impasse. Want to go? BJ says leave her out of it!!

*B. Carmichael*

## Diving in Cozumel after Hurricane Wilma

On February 25th, 2006 my wife, Peggy, a non-diver, and fellow club members Kathy and Mike Galvin made a trip to Cozumel. It was a trip that had been planned for close to 6 months and we were going regardless of the conditions. There had been reports filtered to us that the island was "devastated". I put little faith in these reports since they were coming from "boat people". Those cruise ship passengers who seem to flow endlessly to the islands that divers find and want only restaurants, and shopping. People who don't give a whit about the underwater ecology of the islands they visit. We've all seen them. Red with sunburn walking the streets of an island with their shorts and too tight t-shirts, a fanny pack bulging on their hip. The destroyers of dive islands. But I am digressing.

Back to the issue at hand. What is the diving like in Cozumel after Wilma? Well, it's good and it's not so good. It is now almost all new. On some of the shallower reefs like Tormentos, Santa Rosa and Paradise the reefs have been effectively buried under the sand that was moved by the storm. Keep in mind that Wilma's eye took 12 hours to pass over this island. That's 12 hours of category 5 hurricane nastiness. I kept thinking of the Spiegel Grove and how it sits in 120+ feet and was turned from its side to upright by a hurricane. Sorry, I don't recall that storm's name. Well on a reef that is in 40 to 65 of water the movement of sand is almost unimaginable. There were times when diving on these shallow reefs that I would stop and try to fan the sand and see how deep it was. How far down was I going to have to go to find coral? In some places only inches, in others I made a hole a foot or more deep and found only more sand. There were occasional pieces of coral that were still protruding up through the new bottom but for most of the shallow reefs I don't think that tomorrow is very bright.

The topography of the bottom in the area of these reefs is also changed. Where the sand bottom used to follow a gradual slope to the reef and its structure it now flows down and then gently curves up and over the reef then slopes back down again. In cross view this might look like a big lazy 'S' laid on its side.

The deeper reefs have what I think is best described as a dusting of sand. Not at all unlike the dusting of snow that we would get in the great frozen north where I used to live. I suspect that these deeper reefs will survive just fine and that the little sand that has settled on them will like be moved off by currents or it just isn't enough to make a big difference in the first place. There are new and interesting swim thrus and tunnels to be explored. And we did explore some of these. There are also old ones that have been closed with the choking sand brought on by the storm. The walls are still as pretty as ever.

The fish life has been changed. At least that is what I found. I looked hard to find the big green eels that have there in the past in abundance. The large groupers and parrot fish that were likely fifty or more pounds. They were missing on the shallower dives and very little in number on the deeper. The green eels, well, I only saw one. Since the damage to the shallow reefs is so severe the huge schools of grunts and yellow tails were simply not there. They were there in much smaller numbers where the reef was not too heavily damaged. That leaves me some hope for the future. Maybe these small schools of fish will be big schools in a couple of years. I only saw one nurse shark during the week that we were there. We did have nice but brief encounter with a group of porpoise who were swimming and playing over our heads. Then they were off chasing a boat to ride the bow wave. Splendid toadfish were numerous. In fact I saw more of them this trip than I have ever seen before. Then there was a fish that was unlike any I'd seen in all my prior dives. The divemaster said it was a batfish. Whatever it was it was neat. It looked like it stood on its tail and pectoral fins and didn't want to move no matter what we did to it. I approached it from both the front and rear and could barely get it to move. When you're on a sand bottom there aren't a lot of other things to do to amuse yourself and kill off bottom time.

Scuba Club Cozumel, formerly the Galapagos Inn, where we stay each time is an all-inclusive (except drinks) dive dedicated resort. Actually, I think, it's the first of its kind on the island. They were up and running again 4 weeks after Wilma. Consider that there was not a piece of glass left in the place after Wilma. It is my understanding that they brought in the glass and cut it themselves so that they could get back in business. Their cement dock which I would guess had been about 100 feet long was completely destroyed. Gone entirely. They were in the process of rebuilding it themselves. No fancy tools or cement mixers. Doing it all by hand.

So, will I go back to Cozumel? Absolutely. I don't care what those boat people say. I like this island and its people. Not only that but I am optimistic that the sea life will return and fill in this new environment. It may be all kinds of new critters that move in or may be the descendants of those that were displaced. Either way, I want to see what happens there. There is still plenty of good diving and it is most likely going to be all new. For those interested in looking at their website go to [www.scubaclubcozumel.com](http://www.scubaclubcozumel.com). Full of good information about their operation.

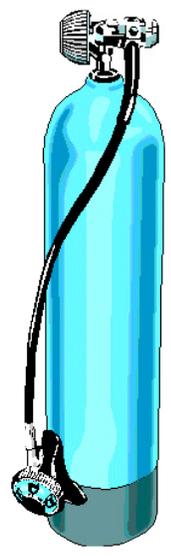
*B. Allen*



# Congratulations!!!!

## New Certifications)

**Rick Halcomb - Advanced Open Water**  
**Kathleen Audet - SSI Nitrox**



*Have a recent certification?? Let us know by sending an e-mail to [dbuck@downunderdiveclub.com](mailto:dbuck@downunderdiveclub.com) and I'll put it in the newsletter.*

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